

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION SINCE 1877

EVANGELISM 2012

Youth Night rocks Coliseum



2012 Mississippi Baptist Youth Night

Youth Night returning to traditional July date in 2013

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

Mississippi Baptist Youth Night's one-time move to a Spring date may have dented attendance slightly, but planners were still "tremendously pleased," said Don Lum, director of evangelism for the sponsoring Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB).

"We knew time and distance would prevent some people from attending since schools are still in session, but I believe the 5,500 who did make it to the Mississippi Coliseum in Jackson saw that the energy level did not drop off," he said.

Date conflicts with other MBCB events as well as a packed schedule at the Coliseum prompted planners to move the 2012 edition of Mississippi Baptist Youth Night from its traditional July time frame to April 20. Lum pointed out that Youth Night for next year will return to July — Friday, July 26, to be exact.

Speaker for Youth Night this year was Stuart Hall, an Atlanta-based youth evangelist and training director for two non-profit organizations, XP3 and DASH INC.

Praise and worship were provided by Christian Stanfill of Cumming, Ga., and his band. Stanfill, a former worship leader at North Point Community church in Alpharetta, Ga., holds three Dove awards from the Gospel Music Association and has been a nominee for two additional Dove awards.

Lum said 69 decisions for Christ were recorded. "As is the case every year, the security personnel from the Hinds County Sheriff's Office commented on how differently our Mississippi Baptist young people behaved from the usual concert crowds at the Coliseum," Lum said. "I am always proud of our young people for reflecting Jesus in the way they conduct themselves."

One of the goals of Mississippi Baptist Youth Night — the largest gathering of Mississippi Baptists anywhere in the

state — is to challenge young people from across the state to return to their home towns and be a light for Jesus in a dark world with the confidence that they are not alone, according to Lum. "Junior high and high school campuses are fertile mission fields," he said.

Lum thanked the members of the Youth Night planning committee, who he said did a "phenomenal job."

"I also want to thank the adult leaders who brought their young people to Youth Night, and for the leaders who served as counselors to those who made decisions for Christ," Lum said.

Mississippi Baptist Youth Night is a ministry of the Mississippi Cooperative Program. For more information on Youth Night, contact Lum at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3278 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 278. E-mail: jellis@mbcb.org.

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From the editor

WILLIAM PERKINS



JCPENNEY Mother's Day brochure

Just in time for Mother's Day

It appears we received a rather strong foreshadowing of what could happen in relation to one of the most important social issues of our time, if Barack Obama is elected in November to a second term as U.S. President.

Obama's vice-president, Joe Biden, appeared on NBC's *Meet the Press* broadcast on May 6 and restated his position on homosexual marriage in no uncertain terms. "Look, I just think that the good news is that as more and more Americans become to understand what this is all about is a simple proposition. Who do you love? Who do you love? And will you be loyal to the person you love? And that's what people are finding out is what all marriages, at their root, are about. Whether they're marriages of lesbians or gay men or heterosexuals," according to the official NBC transcript of the broadcast.

Pressed by *Meet the Press* host David Gregory, Biden added, "I am absolutely comfortable with the fact that men marrying men, women marrying women, and heterosexual men and women marrying another are entitled to the same exact rights, all the civil rights, all the civil liberties. And quite frankly, I don't see much of a distinction beyond that... people fear that which is different. Now they're beginning to understand," according to the transcript.

"In a second term, will this administration come out behind same-sex marriage, the institution of marriage?" Gregory is quoted in the transcript as asking. Stammering slightly, Biden responded, "Well, I can't speak to that. I don't know the answer to that."

"It sounds like you'd like to see it happen," Gregory perceptively interjected. Biden quickly changed the subject to how much Obama has done in his first term administration to advance the homosexual agenda.

Will a second-term Obama adminis-

tration pursue even greater enactment of the homosexual agenda, including equal standing for all types of "marriage," if given the opportunity by American voters? "The president sets the policy," Biden told Gregory.

Retailer JC Penney seems to be getting ahead of even the Obama administration when it comes to promoting the homosexual agenda. A massive direct-mail brochure celebrating the upcoming Mother's Day observance on May 13 throws the spotlight on a somewhat different type of motherhood.

On pages eight and nine of the brochure are an older woman obviously depicted as a grandmother, two young girls, and pair of 30-something adult women hugging each other. There are smiles all around as they model Liz Claiborne brand clothing. This happy scene could be mistaken for an everyday, multi-generational shopping excursion to a JC Penney store, except for the accompanying text.

"You'll often find Wendi, her partner, Maggie, and daughters elbow-deep in paint, clay, or mosaics. Even as babies, the girls toddled around in diapers, covered in paint," said Wendi. They come from a long line of artists, which includes grandma Carolyn."

Why did JC Penney, which has a number of locations in the state and showered Mississippi Baptists' homes with the brochure, feel the need to blend the homosexual agenda with an event like Mother's Day?

"We want to be a store for all Americans. Our May book honors women from diverse backgrounds," JC Penney spokeswoman Kate Coulas told MSN's Bottom Line report.

Christians have a lot to do before our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ returns (Matthew 28:18-20). Given the current condition of our society, we'd better get started right away.

Moral fabric of U.S. unraveling

By now we've all read or heard too much information about the U.S. Secret Service prostitution scandal. At least 20 women were in hotel rooms with U.S. agents and military personnel in Cartagena, Colombia, just before U.S. President Barack Obama arrived there for a summit with Latin American leaders.

The 11 Secret Service agents were recalled to the U.S. from Colombia and placed on administrative leave after a night of partying that allegedly ended with at least some bringing prostitutes back to their hotel rooms. On April 17, the agency announced that it also had revoked the agents' security clearances.

As with all immoral sexual encounters, a lack of truth is evidenced by multiple stories about who the women were. U.S. Rep. Peter King, R-N.Y., chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives Homeland Security Committee, stated, "Some are admitting [the women] were prostitutes, others are saying they're not. They're just women they met at the hotel bar."

A lie to yourself and others almost always accompanies sexual sins.

This incident is despicable enough. However, the vast majority of commentary by national media is further evidence that we are a nation in trouble. On more than one occasion and on more than one channel, collectively we have heard the commentators attempt to justify the sexual immorality with phrases like, "Boys will be boys," or, "They deserved some down time and de-stressing," or, "The women were simply providing services."

Obviously, from the national media perspective, the potential national security threat was of greater concern than the immoral behavior of the agents, servicemen, or the prostitutes. There were those who used the word "shame" to speak about the breach in national security. However, the word was rarely attached to the immoral behavior of those involved in the incident.

This is clear evidence that the moral fabric of the United States is ripped apart. Be assured, our enemies know it. The only reason we don't confess it is because we prefer denial to reality and authenticity.



Guest opinion
with John Yeats

After decades of parading hedonistic behavior on the networks and in the movie houses, after decades of affirming self-indulgence ("What happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas"), after decades of social experiments on our young through amoral educational processes and the affirmation of fatherless families, we are reaping a whirlwind of disaster.

The only hope for my great-grandchildren to experience the freedoms that we so love in our nation is a mighty movement of God. How can that happen? It starts in us when we value the purity of a relationship with God more than the sirens' song of our culture.

It starts with God's people when our children and our friends see that we believe spiritual disciplines are better than entertainment, power, or making the next buck. It begins when we use words that depict our authentic relationships and personal responsibility instead of cultural words of pleasure and individual rights.

Such a movement continues when the people of God embrace His agenda of transforming lives through the Gospel of Jesus our Lord. When thousands of churches are less concerned about themselves and begin to see the true condition of people's lives, we will know that God is moving across this land.

When the altars of our churches are full of people shedding tears of repentance and calling out for the salvation of the people they know and love, then we will know that God is restoring the fabric of our nation.

Yeats is executive director of the Missouri Baptist Convention in Jefferson City, and recording secretary of the Southern Baptist Convention.

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Chinese anti-abortion dissident makes plea

WASHINGTON (BP) — A member of the U.S. House of Representatives has reminded government leaders that international ordeals Chen Guangcheng is currently facing was prompted by China's brutal family planning policy that includes forced abortions and unwanted sterilizations.

Meanwhile, the Chinese government said May 4 that Chen may apply to study abroad, and the U.S. State Department confirmed that Chen has been offered a fellowship from an American university where he can be accompanied by his wife and two children.

Chen, a 40-year-old self-trained lawyer who has been blind since childhood, was imprisoned and then placed under house arrest for exposing the barbaric nature of China's one-child policy.

In one of the most tragic examples Chen had helped uncover, the government forced a woman who was seven months pregnant to have an abortion, and then forcibly sterilized her, LifeNews.com reported.

In his opening remarks at an emergency hearing May 3 that later included an impromptu phone call with Chen, U.S. Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J., characterized the Chinese human rights advocate's story as "extraordinary and inspirational from the beginning."

Self-taught

Blinded by a childhood illness, Chen pushed past profound barriers to school himself in Chinese law and to become an advocate for the rights of the vulnerable, including disabled persons and rural farmers. Smith, chairman of the Congressional Executive Commission on China, said.

Years later, when local villagers told him their stories of forced abortions and forced sterilizations, Chen and his wife Yuan Weijing documented these stories, later building briefs for a class-action lawsuit against the officials involved.

The couple's efforts led to international news media attention in 2005; Smith said, and "their challenge to China's draconian population control policies spurred harsh and extended official retaliation including torture and beatings."

Congress has examined China's population control policies repeatedly, Smith noted, but the practices continue. "China's government sometimes paints a false picture for gullible foreigners that the policy is somehow being eased, but the few exceptions they permit do not fundamentally modify its rough, harsh, brutal and ugly character."

Smith explained that family planning officials in villages and neighborhoods "maintain an extreme vigilance to exterminate" unborn children the government does not approve.

"The English phrase they use is 'family planning,' but the plan is not the family's plan but the state's plan," Smith said.

"...When an out-of-plan birth does take place, they impose crushing fines on the couple. All unwed mothers are compelled by the state to abort."

"Among China's many coercions and tyrannies, this is the one that touches the most Chinese -- especially women who are victimized and the girl-child who is murdered in the womb or at birth," the congressman testified. "It



REQUESTING PASSAGE TO U.S. — Bob Fu (right), president of the China Aid Association, holds up a cell phone with Chinese dissident Chen Guangcheng on speaker phone as U.S. Rep. Frank Wolf, R-Va., and U.S. Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J., listen during an emergency hearing on Chen's status May 3 in Washington. (Photo courtesy of China Aid)

was when Chen Guangcheng challenged these horrific violations of women's rights that the hammer fell."

For the past seven years, Chen and his family have paid a dear price for his advocacy efforts, Smith said. Refusing to back down, Chen escaped from house arrest April 22 in order to seek help at the U.S. Embassy in Beijing.

Applications accepted?

After testimony from Smith, Bob Fu of the Texas-based China Aid Association, and others, U.S. Rep. Frank Wolf, R-Va., asked if anyone had been in touch with Chen since Wednesday. Soon after, Fu and Smith called Chen in a Beijing hospital.

With Fu holding up a cell phone on speaker phone and translating, Chen told the commission he wanted U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton to visit him while she is in Beijing on other business, and he appealed for the U.S. government to ensure the safety of his family, according to a China Aid news release.

Victoria Nuland, a State Department spokesperson, said the Chinese government relayed the belief that Chen "has the same right to travel abroad as any other citizen of China."

"The Chinese government has indicated that it will accept Mr. Chen's applications for appropriate travel documents," Nuland said. "The United States government expects that the Chinese government will expeditiously process his applications for these documents and make accommodations for his current medical condition."

"The United States government would then give visa requests for him and his immediate family priority attention. This matter has been handled in the spirit of a cooperative U.S.-China partnership."

Coming to America

Clinton told reporters in Beijing she was encouraged by the development. "From the beginning, all of our efforts with Mr. Chen have been guided by his choices and our values, and I'm pleased that today our ambassador has spoken with him again, our embassy staff and our doctor had a chance to meet with him, and he confirms that he and his family now want to go to the United States so he can pursue his studies."

USA Today identified New York University as the American institution that had offered Chen a fellowship.

Also on Friday, Reggie Littlejohn of Women's Rights Without Frontiers, who testified at the hearing convened by Smith, confirmed that her friend He Peirong, known as Pearl, has been released from detention. He Peirong had helped rescue Chen by driving him to Beijing upon his escape.

"I am relieved and delighted that Pearl has been released -- the day after the congressional hearing at which her case was so strongly raised," Littlejohn said. "Some say that quiet, back door diplomacy is the way to deal with the detention of Chinese human rights defenders, but human rights activists have found that high profile, public pressure is far more effective."

In his remarks at the hearing, Fu of China Aid, a former Chinese prisoner himself, said the way U.S. officials han-

dled Chen's departure from the U.S. Embassy "reveals a lack of basic understanding about China."

The deal the American government struck with China "did not include measures for how to ensure the freedom and safety of Chen and his family," he said.

"How is it possible to believe that a government responsible for the long-term illegal imprisonment and the violent abuse of Chen Guangcheng and his family will now abide by this agreement?" Fu asked.

Beaten and tortured

Tony Perkins of the Washington-based Family Research Council said May 3 the United States "lost its leverage" in such situations by placing the nation "in the awkward position of indebtedness to China," which owns at least \$1.6 trillion of the U.S. debt.

Tony Perkins is not related to the editor of The Baptist Record, William Perkins.

"We traded away our ability to act as the 'city upon a hill' because the government refused to live within its means," Perkins wrote in his Washington Update email. "America, once a muffled voice of support for China's persecuted under President Bush, has fallen silent under this administration -- for fear of the economic repercussions."

"Now, pro-life advocates like Chen and his family are being beaten and tortured while the leaders of liberty fumble through negotiations for their release. Although China's culture of oppression didn't happen overnight, it's another example of where this 'economic first' mentality will lead us as a nation."

Bless his heart. Vice President Joe Biden has made a living out of misstatements. If you did not hear him recently when he was making a speech down in South Florida, it is worth trying to look it up and listen to it. In the speech he was saying something about years ago they blocked off some of the flow of the water to the Everglades and in essence it made a dam for the evergators. Obviously, anybody who takes a moment to think about it realizes that he was thinking about the alligators that were in the Everglades. The Everglades are the swamp-land of so many species, but his mind and his words got tangled and he just referred to them as the evergators.

Now the problem is not that he made the mistake for everyone who heard him make it if they are honest would think about a time when they were starting to say something and their tongue got tied around their eyetooth and they could not see where they were going. They stumbled and made a misstatement. His problem is that he is the vice president of the United States and anything that is out of the ordinary and especially if it is remotely humorous is going to catch everybody's attention. It will be played and replayed until the statement becomes a caricature of the real person.

Every president and every public person walks a fine line of being in danger of doing something similar. President Bush, No. 43, was gifted at mispronouncing and wrongly enunciating words. He got it honest from his father — the former vice president and then U.S. president No. 41 was gifted at missaying the language. Who could ever forget some of the wonderful things that Vice President Dan Quayle said or miss said? I think about that person of great wisdom from years gone by who said something to the effect that very seldom does anyone have to apologize for the un-



Directions

With Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

Evergators

spoken word. I would argue with that, but generally speaking that is true. But for so many who are in a position and whose life's calling puts them in places that they are expected to speak, communicate, and connect with folks in a clear and engaging manner, it is difficult to not mess up.

Now the reason that I am addressing this is on behalf of all of our pastors, staff people, Sunday School teachers, deacon chairmen, committee leaders, and on and on the list grows who are leading people. You and I and all of us are susceptible at any moment in time of becoming Joe Biden, one of the Bushes, Quayle, or just being ourselves and missing the target. In almost 50 years of preaching I have messed up a bunch! In all honesty, for those of you who have heard me preach very many times, you know that there are occasions when I intentionally mess up. Now on occasion I do that so that it will have a momentary, mental shock value and someone will think that is not the way that is. Then I may correct it. The

other reason I do it is so people won't know when I do it intentionally or unintentionally. Thereby they may give me a break and not even know it.

I try to forget, but probably will never forget the night I was preaching and got caught up in the moment of preaching about David and his fall. I was telling about David committing adultery with Belshazzar. I know that it is Bathsheba. I knew it then, I know it now, and maybe I will always know it, but in the midst of the thought process at the time Belshazzar sounded right. Obviously, there were people lined up after church to explain to me that I messed up. Did I intend to mess up? No! Will I do it again? I don't know. I could and I may, but sometimes your brain is operating without your tongue close to it. So what is the point of all of this? Well, just let me make three quick points.

One is to encourage you to bless the blunders. By that I am thinking about when Jesus said in the Sermon on

the Mount, "Bless them that curse you." I know that is a different thing, but what Jesus was encouraging us to do is to look for the good side of things even when somebody has done something bad to us. So when you hear someone make a first class, maybe even a world class speech blunder, you find the nice side of the equation and say something gentle, kind, sweet, or maybe even mutually humorous. You be the one who blesses the blunder.

It is always interesting to me that when someone makes a blunder there are people around who want to cut through the chase and cut somebody's throat. They want to immediately leap to their stupidity, their lack of preparation, or their enormous lack of giftedness. Don't choose to take that road, but choose to be a blessing.

The second thing that I would encourage all of us to do and that is to not make a federal case out of a speech blunder even if it comes from a federal official or as more often than not in our case your local, kind, Baptist pastor. For the most part even though it may be a weird snafu, it is not the end of the world and you do not need to try to make it into that kind of case.

For some who may not be able to do either one of the prior two suggestions, mainly because you are perfect and you never make a mistake, at least you have the privilege of exercising the joyful overture to God in thanking Him for your perfection. Offer your praises to heaven that in a world of over six billion people, God had the brilliance to make someone as close to perfection as you are. If the rest of us fail to join you in that expression of praise, just remember it is because of our imperfections.

The author can be contacted at jfutral@mbcb.org.

Mississippians elected to national network positions

Special to The Baptist Record

At the National Celebration of the Bivocational Small Church Network, three Mississippians were elected officers: Dale

Holloway, vice-president; Joe Young, church planter strategist; and Ann Holloway, president of PALS (Partners Assisting the Lord's Servants). The theme was Making a Difference — Whatever it Takes. Topics included Revitalizing Your Church; Disciple-

ship Any Church Can Do; How to Involve More Church Members in Outreach Evangelism; and How to Increase Giving in Your Church. The celebration con-

cluded with a message by Emil Turner, Executive Director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention. Ray Gilder of the Tennessee Baptist Convention is the

National Leader. The National Celebration of Bivocational Small Church Leadership Network will be held at William Carey University April 18 – 20, 2013.

Submission Guidelines

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may

be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either e-mail, CD or DVD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lit. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items are generally not publishable. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape-, building-, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

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RAXBZAJP XFZ: PZBZF

Clue: B = V

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Psalm Eighty-Six: Four

By Charles Marx, 1932–2004. © 2005

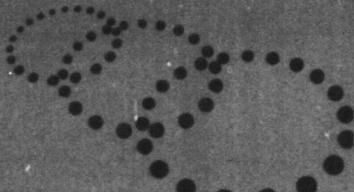
What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

House Tops.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

May 10, 2012

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.



Transformational Sunday School

Transformational Sunday School Training

July 14, 21, 28; August 11, 18, 25; September 8, 15, 22

Make your plans now to attend Sunday School training designed with the needs of your church in mind. Planning teams work with local church and association leaders in each region of the state to prayerfully determine the needs of your church. Each conference is customized with those needs in mind.

Specific conferences will be announced as needs are discovered.

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2012 Senior Adult Day Retreats

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May 29

Preacher

Mickey Dalrymple

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May 22

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May 24

Preacher

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PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205; or, to pay with credit
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CHAMPION OF GRACE

Day Retreat for Single Adults (Ages 20-38)

Saturday, May 26, 2012

Pearl River Association Center, McNeill (close to Picayune)

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Cost: \$20; Registration open now

Send payment to MBCB Conference

Mail registration fee to MBCB Conference Office,
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For more information: 601-798-2372 or prba@hurges.net or
www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=168452363225348. DVDs for promotion
of this retreat will be available.

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dramage@mbcb.org

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To register, call Jo Wasson at
800-748-1651, ext. 216, or mail
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For more information call Glenn Shows at
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Blue Mountain
College

Speaker:
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July 9-13

Missions Camp for Girls:
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June 18-22
June 25-29
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July 9-13
July 16-20
July 23-27



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JULY 16-20, 2012

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*"This is the Message
we have heard from Him
and announce to you.
God is Light."*

There is no darkness in Him."

I John 1:5



For more information contact: Paula Smith - psmith@mcb.org / 601-292-2236
Registration form will be posted the first of May at
www.mcb.org/mission_strategy/wmn/literacy/



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Email: disc@arrington.org

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Pray this day for...

"Jesus replied: 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" - Matthew 22:37-39

Pray for a team of five from **Blue Mountain College BSU** traveling to Taiwan, May 10-22.

13

Pray for a team of six from **Parkway BC, Houston**, traveling to the Dominican Republic to minister through evangelism, May 14-19.

14

Pray for a team of two from **Easthaven BC, Brookhaven**, traveling to East Asia to minister through strategy planning, May 14-19.

15

Pray for a team of 12 from **William Carey University BSU** traveling to serve in Peru, May 14-26.

16

Pray for a team of two from **Star BC** traveling to Belarus to minister through church and family ministry, May 16-June 15.

17

May 11 – 24, 2012

Pray for a team of 20 from **Longview Heights BC, Olive Branch**, traveling to Ukraine to minister through medical and construction ministry, May 13-17.

12

Pray for a volunteer from **Iglesia El Buen Pastor** traveling to the Middle East, May 11-17.

13

Pray for a team of youth from **FBC, Yazoo City**, traveling to serve in Peru, May 20-29.

20

Pray for: **Floyd* and Sharon* Johnston**, IMB missionaries ministering to African Peoples in Asia through church planting, church and home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Millard and Susan* Jones**, IMB missionaries ministering to East Asian and European Peoples in Canada through student evangelism.

Pray for: **John* and Melinda* Kyza**, IMB missionaries ministering to European Peoples in the Czech Republic through personalization, church and home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Henry* and Linda Lee**, IMB missionaries ministering to East Asian Peoples in the United States through church planting, church and home outreach and evangelism.

*These International Mission Board missionaries claim Mississippi as their home state. The IMB missionaries listed in the HouseTops prayer calendar are currently active in 2-4 year terms or in career service.

MINISTERS OF EDUCATION LEADER LAB

(PLEASE BRING YOUR PASTOR WITH YOU)

Monday
May 21, 2012

9:30 a.m.—2:30 p.m. (lunch provided)

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Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always to the very end of the age."

To register, go to mbcb.org/Events>Sunday School>ME Leader Lab to download a form, or contact Carolyn Day, phone: 1-800-748-1651, ext. 291, or 601-292-3291 (locally); e-mail: cday@mbcb.org.



Miss Natalia Noske

7/10/07

Parents: Kieth & Susan
Restricted

Miss Josie M.

7/13/10

Parents: C & A
Restricted

Miss Christina Beaman

7/17/01

Parents: Brad & Lenora
Last Frontier

Mr. Benjamin Worthy

7/18/08

Charlie & Shannon
Worthy
European Peoples

Mr. Joshua

7/26/96
Parents: J & P
Restricted

Miss Zoë

7/30/00
Parents: CJ & J
Restricted



Encourage an MK with a card!

FOR SECURITY, cards will be forwarded. Please send all to: Child's name, Parent's name, MBCB WMU MK Birthdays, PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205.

PLEASE NOTE: Church members may send a package of cards together; cards do not have to be sent individually to the WMU. Individual cards do not need postage stamps when sent as a package to MS WMU.

Please include your return address on each card envelope. MKs and their parents may wish to send you an update or note of appreciation.

MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS



HOUSE TOPS

Family focus

Families these days are pulled in so many directions that they often pass each other coming and going.

Parents are busy with work in their business and at home. For single parents, challenges are even greater and time is even more valuable. Also, many have aging or infirm parents and/or relatives who need special attention. By Saturday evening, many families are just worn out.

With all the demands, activities, and perhaps over-scheduling, parents and children alike are pulled in opposite directions. The only moments a family may have together in the week is dinner time, but that may be stretching it for many. Families who live under the same roof often find that the only moments they are in close proximity is when they are asleep under the same roof.

Christians are battling a culture that equates being busy

with being successful, and the opportunities for quality family time are often pushed aside in pursuit of more "things" to do. The result is that families often get distracted and lose sight of "the greater picture" of what family life is all about.

So, what is God's plan for the family? What should the family focus be?

First of all, beginning with the marriage – the husband and wife relationship is to be a living, real-time, motion picture to onlookers of what a two-way relationship is like between God and a Christian. So, how a husband and wife relate to each other influences how

people view God and what it also means to be Christian.

The husband is to love his wife as Christ loves the church. Equally important the wife is to respect her husband and his leadership the same way the church follows the Lord (Ephesians 5).

Men need to be mindful of their daughters before they mistreat their wife or how they treat her in public. It is true that fathers greatly influence their daughters in the type of husband they may one day marry. Fathers should ask themselves, "Would I want my daughter to marry a man like me?" The same goes for a mother and her son. She should ask herself, "Would I want my son to marry a woman like me?"



with Rob Chambers

Parents also have a biblical mandate in how they are to relate to their children. Several passages speak to this, but Deut. 6:6-7 provides the foundation for all other principles in child rearing. "And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise."

Parents are to orally teach the Bible to their children, but they are also to be living examples of what it means to be a Christian (Rom. 12:1). They are also to let their actions speak for their words as they "walk by the way" because believing one thing and doing another is useless (James 2:26).

Children not only learn from parents by how they treat each other but also from

how they treat strangers and people they do business with. Col. 3:17 says, "Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father."

So, don't major in the minors; don't sweat the little things; don't cry over spilled milk. Be intentional in having quality time together. Give each other your full, undivided attention. This may look different for different families, but one thing is for sure – studying the Bible, worshiping the Lord, and praying together will bring family life back in focus.

Chambers serves as consultant for the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission. He can be contacted at 601-292-3331 or rchambers@christianaction.com.

Need a light?

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)

*Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Southern Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

Just for the Record



SANDY HOOK CHURCH, SANDY HOOK, celebrated Valentine's Day fabulous 50s style. Shown is pastor Ricky Daugherty with deacons Jeremy Jones, Chris Russell, and Jed Warren.



Jason Holland, pastor, MT. PISGAH CHURCH, SANDHILL, presented retiring church treasurer Kay Willey-Baker with a plaque and a gift. She has served for over 27 years.

In other Church News:

► **Tillatoba Church, Tillatoba**, will host an open car show May 12. Registration, 8 a.m.; judging, 1 p.m.; trophy presentation, 3 p.m. \$20 entrance fee for first car; \$15 for second. Concessions provided. For more information, call (662) 230-3818, 417-5834, or 934-4134.

► **First Church, Satartia**, is hosting a fellowship rally May 12, 11 a.m., including door prizes, silent auction, food, singing, and old fashioned fellowship.

Bible Drill



MT. COMFORT CHURCH, CALHOUN ASSOCIATION, recognizes its Bible drillers. **ABOVE** children's team: Tori Campbell; Joeileigh Poteete; leader Debbie Harrelson; Chloe Grubbs; and Jaden Beth Smith. **BELOW** student team: Patrick Kelly; Savannah Smith; Benjamin Baker; Torie Patton; Kayde Coleman; Patricia Kelly, leader; and Miranda Bennett.



MS POSITIONS

FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH, 1046 FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE, MCCOMB, MS IS SEARCHING FOR A MINISTER OF MUSIC. Send resumes to the above address marked Personnel Committee or phone 601 684-7003.

BIVOCATIONAL CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTER NEEDED. Mail resume to: "Search Team", Toombeau Baptist Church, P.O. Box 487, Toombeau, MS 39364.

CANAAN BAPTIST CHURCH IS SEEKING A BIO-VOCATIONAL PASTOR. 5-10 yrs. experience as a Southern Baptist Minister. mail Resumes to Canaan Baptist Church 1008 Lehmburg Rd N. Columbia, Ms. 39702 Att. Pastor Search Committee or E-mail to barriejo@cableone.net E-mail to aliceoswalt@att.net Call 601-587-7653 for additional information and leave message.

EAST BOONEVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH IN BOONEVILLE, MS IS ACCEPTING RESUMES FOR SENIOR PASTOR. Candidates must be theologically conservative, stand on the inerrancy of scripture, and possess strong leadership and communication skills. Please send resume to EBBC, 4 CR 7015, Booneville, Ms 38829.

LEESBURG BAPTIST CHURCH, RANKIN COUNTY, MS IS SEEKING A BI-VOCATIONAL WORSHIP LEADER. PLEASE E-MAIL RESUMES TO LEESBURG BAPTISTCHURCH@YAHOO.COM, IF MAILING: ATTN: PASTOR JOSEPH OSTER 796 HWY 481 MORTON, MS 39117 WWW.LEESBURGBAPTISTCHURCH.COM

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PLEASANT GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH, BROOKHAVEN, MS IS SEEKING A PART-TIME YOUTH MINISTER. Please send resumes to Youth Committee Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, 2162 Old Hwy 84 West, Brookhaven, MS 39001 or e-mail resumes to PGBC@telepac.net Deadline for submitting resumes is June 1, 2012.

HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH IN NESHOBIA ASSOCIATION IS SEEKING AN INDIVIDUAL FOR PART-TIME YOUTH DIRECTOR. Please send resume' to dmphillips@gmail.com or contact Michelle Phillips at 601-507-7700.

SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH IN SONTAG MS IS SEEKING A BI-VOCATIONAL MINISTER OF MUSIC. Please send resumes to: Shiloh Baptist Church PO Box 166, Sontag MS 39065. Call 601-587-7653 for additional information and leave message.

IMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH IN VICKSBURG MISSISSIPPI IS SEEKING INDIVIDUAL FOR FULL TIME YOUTH MINISTER AND ASSOCIATE PASTOR. Please send resume to Immanuel Baptist Church Attn: Personnel Committee, 6949 Hwy 61 South, Vicksburg, MS 39180 or email to IBC.personnel@yahoo.com or contact Michael Bell at 601-218-5325.

Just for the Record



The children's ministry of **RAYMOND ROAD CHURCH, JACKSON**, raised \$553 for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering by participating in a bike-a-thon and by collecting change in a sock. Cindy Sansing, minister to children.

In other church news:

► **Slayden Church, Marshall Association**, reached and surpassed its goal of \$5000 by collecting \$6051.35 for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. Rusty Fair, pastor.

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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH IN CARLISLE, ARKANSAS IS SEEKING A FULL-TIME MUSIC MINISTER. Conservative in doctrine, Traditional music. Please send resume to: First Baptist Church, P. O. Box 25, Carlisle, AR 72024.

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ABChomes seeks servant-minded people who are called to a ministry, not just a job.

■ Arkansas Baptist Children's Homes (ABChomes) is seeking houseparent couples for the Baptist Home in Monticello, Ark., Boys Ranch in Harrison, Ark., and the Emergency Receiving Home in Judsonia, Ark. These full-time positions include salary, medical insurance, life insurance and paid leave. For information: Children's Home, contact Randy Luper 870.367.5358 or ruper@abchomes.org; Boys Ranch, contact Bill Vonderheiden 870.741.5784 or bvonderheide@abchomes.org; Judsonia Emergency shelter, contact Sean Culpepper 501.455.8554 or sculpeper@abchomes.org

■ ABChomes is seeking a case manager for the Baptist Home in Monticello. Contact Luper, 870.367.5358 or ruper@abchomes.org.

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The BaptistRecord

He Voluntarily Suffered: Be Grateful • Luke 22:14-22, 39-46, 63-65

Suppose that you decide to attend a new church in town. You arrive to a building topped with a giant guillotine. You enter a foyer decorated with statues of electric chairs. The altar has a hangman's noose prominently displayed. As you meet other participants, most are wearing some semblance of torture or execution device as a t-shirt or jewelry. This would probably be a good time to run but you have friends and co-workers there so you ride it out to avoid embarrassment. The service begins.

First is a song about washing yourself in the blood of a lamb, you are very relieved when none is produced. Next, a cup of a red substance is held up that is said to represent the blood of a man. This is passed around with what appears to be pieces of bread that are said to represent the flesh of a man. All of the worshippers are asked to drink and eat in his memory. Finally, a priest stands up and passionately and vividly describes a man's barbaric torture, execution and death while the regulars yawn and check their watches. Would you not wonder how anyone could be so callous about something so horrific? When its over, everyone smiles and hugs each other and leaves. You stagger to the nearest restroom to recover.

If you have not yet caught on, this scenario plays out in Christian churches every Sunday. We are so accustomed to blood,

torture, and execution in our worship that they pass unnoticed. What must a visitor unfamiliar with these traditions feel? How about those that have heard about these things but have never met a practicing Christian or attended a Christian service? Some very prominent churches have chosen to remove the crosses and tone these subjects down for the sake of the visitor. Is this the answer? To quit preaching, teaching, and singing

about the Cross and Blood? Certainly not! No one can accept Him without knowledge of these truths. The problem is not the barbarity or even the antiquity of the subject, the problem is the Christian worshipper's response or lack thereof. When our passion reflects the subject, they will come.

Suffering in Anticipation (Luke 22:14-20) Remind everyone that Jesus knew what was coming and what He would have to do. Speak directly and pointedly. This lesson should not be addressed to

"we," "us," or "our." Ask, "Can YOU imagine the agony He went through knowing he would die horribly and linger longer than He would have liked?"

Suffering Disappointment (Luke 22:21-22, 39-40, 45-46) Many lost feel like they are unforivable or undeserving

of forgiveness or unqualified to attend church. Perhaps the reason that the average church member is

emotionally uninvested in the church is for the same reason? Point out that Jesus invited Judas to His dinner table that night knowing what he would do later. In the garden, He did not send the disciples away even though they disappointed Him time and time again.

Suffering Great Stress (Luke 22:41-44) I believe that the angel came only because Jesus' grief was such that He was near death. The angel propped Him up so that He would live until His

appointed time to die. That was no favor to Jesus, it was for your sake.

Suffering Humiliation (Luke 22:63-65) Jesus willingly went through this for you. Whom of us has the right to stand before Him without shame or remorse or to ever feel that our debt to Him has been paid?

Imagine that a video surfaced of people doing these same things to a dog. Michael Vick's story was nothing compared to this. But it is the extreme cruelty that makes the story worth telling. Jesus submitted to this deliberately for your sake. He loves you that much. I like Samuel Rutherford's perspective, "Christ's cross is such a burden as sails are to a ship or wings to a bird." A church that avoids this subject is dead in the water.

For Discussion: How ugly and damaging must sin be if this is the price God required? Describe a worship service that is filled with people that know they have Grace that they also know they do not deserve? How must God feel when we pray and ask, "why" as if He has no understanding of our suffering? What percentage of your church are "practicing" Christians?

Mitchell is pastor of Main Street Church, Goodman.

A Legacy of Hope • 1 Samuel 12:23-24, 1:10-20, 1:27 – 2:1

If a legacy is something we pass from one generation to the next, what better way can we participate than to leave behind our reputation, our Christian witness, and sweet memories? A lot of my ancestors are buried in an immaculate little church cemetery in Sellers, Alabama. All my life I'd heard stories about those people. My great grandmother and her four daughters looked forward to visiting there whenever they could. A few years ago, Charles and I found out the reason the cemetery was so special. Most tombstones are tall, ornately carved with each person's name and scripture or praise. For those of us who would follow them, it was letting us know of their faithfulness to God, and how important that is in all of our lives. It gave us hope for our future. I am so blessed for their faith and obvious love for God. I remember saying "What a legacy is left to encourage us to love and honor God with our lives and pass His love on to our family until Christ comes again." Heaven will truly be a blessed reunion! The Lord knoweth the days of the upright: and their inheritance shall be forever. Psalm 37:18

The Rest of The Story I Samuel 12:23-24

"Have Faith, Hope and Charity, that's the way to live successfully!"

How do I know? The Bible tells me so. Don't worry 'bout tomorrow, just be real good today; The Lord is right beside you, He'll guide you all the way." Samuel was ready to retire, but he gave a farewell speech to encourage the Israelites. He was leaving a legacy to them by his way of life and instructions for how to build HOPE. Many people today don't trust in God. They place their

hope in the wrong things; sometimes even politics or people. Samuel said... those who follow Christ know the best solution is to rely on Him for everything. HOPE. It is the expectation that our wish or prayer will be granted. (Webster's Dictionary) This lesson begins by looking at the end of Samuel's public life, showing him to be a great leader committed to prayer and doing what was right. What made Samuel the man of God he became? What

makes any of us turn out the way we do? The logical place to start would be to observe the life of the mother who conceives us, carries us to full term, suffers the pains of childbirth, then guides our lives each day until we begin a family of our own. I thank God for each of you, and wish for you a very

"Happy Mother's Day."

Flash-back: A Desperate Prayer I Samuel 1:10-20

Hannah was childless, frustrated, and discouraged by the ridicule she received from Peninnah, who was already a mother. Hannah's husband, Elkanah (el-kane-uh) loved her very much but didn't seem to understand her intense desire to bear a child. (v. 8) Each year they traveled to Shiloh to worship and sacrifice to the Lord. Hannah pleaded for God to give her a son. "Don't forget me", she begged. She promised she would gladly give her son back to the Lord for the rest of his life, and vowed he

would follow the Nazarite vow of consecration to the Lord. Hannah's silent, animated praying concerned Eli, the priest. He accused her of drunkenness. "No", she explained, "I'm pouring my heart out to God". Eli bestowed his blessing to her: "May God grant your request." She felt great relief and hope before her request was answered. God answered her prayer. She named their son, Samuel, meaning: "I requested him from the Lord."

Hannah cuddled her sweet baby boy as she fed him. When he was about three years old, she remembered her promise to God, and knew it was time to present him to Eli the priest at Shiloh. Samuel was to serve God in the temple under the care of Eli. (Broadman Commentary) Hannah prayed a thankful prayer to the Lord. (v. 2:1) She was so happy and she rejoiced in hope fulfilled!

In our church, couples are invited to dedicate their babies to God the first time they bring them to church. We, as the congregation, are blessed to acknowledge God's gift to their family, and smile as they promise God they will guide their newborn child toward Him. What a blessing and a legacy of HOPE.

Davis is a member of Fellowship Church, Meridian.

Revivals & Homecomings

► **Parkway Church, Pascagoula:** Revival, May 13 – 16; Sun., 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. – Wed., 7 p.m.; Brandon Sanders, speaker.

► **Doty Springs Church, Attala Association:** Homecoming, May 20; service, 10:45 a.m., followed

by fellowship meal; singing, 1 p.m. Ralph Hunt, pastor.

► **Trinity Church, Laurel:** Revival, May 13 – 16; Sun., 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. – Wed., 6:30 p.m.; Argile Smith, speaker; Currie Page, Glenn Padgett, and Steven Jeffcoat, music.

Staff Changes

► **First Church, Lumberton:** has called Joshua Eaton as youth director.

Bible Drill



BORDER SPRINGS CHURCH, CALEDONIA, recognizes its Bible drillers. Front row, Lorelei Murphree, Nathan McLemore, and Lindsie Jo Moseley; back row, Alaina Ulmer, Taylor Dodson, Tyler Brown, Caleb Payne, and Dale Castle.



FIRST CHURCH, GREENWOOD, recognizes its children's Bible drillers. Shown are Jon Floyd Dunn, Shane Houston Stephens, director Debra Miller, Abigail Gillespie, and Emily Lake.



ROCKY POINT CHURCH, LEAKE COUNTY, recognizes its Bible drillers.



NEW PROVIDENCE CHURCH, COPIAH ASSOCIATION, recognizes its youth and children's Bible drillers: back row, Jasmine Twiner, Zech Brown, and Chet Twiner (four year award winners), J.C. Twiner, and Autumn Twiner; front row, Brock Wallace and Jonathan Twiner.



Brad Denham received a \$500 scholarship from John Temple, pastor, **POPLAR SPRINGS DRIVE CHURCH, MERIDIAN**. Denham scored superior all nine years he participated in the state Bible drills. The church plans to give scholarships to any child who goes to state finals for five out of the nine years they can participate.

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